

THE NORMANDY INVASION D-DAY (JUNE 6TH, 1944) 80th Anniversary



80TH ANNIVERSARY FOR THE LIBERATION OF EUROPE

Scheduled Events and Programs

+ .

Normandy Tourism - <https://en.normandie-tourisme.fr/highlight/80th-anniversary-of-d-day/>

National WW2 Museum: <https://www.nationalww2museum.org/80th-anniversary-d-day>

National DDay Memorial: <https://www.dday.org/80th/>

D-Day Overlord: <https://www.dday-overlord.com/en/normandy/commemorations/2024/agenda>

Battle Monuments Commission: <https://www.abmc.gov/d-day80>

France: Normandie Coeur de Nacre Tourisme: https://www.coeurdenacretourisme.com/en/1944-2024-anniversary-of-d-day-and-the-battle-of-normandy/#pll_switche

Normandie France: <https://80e-normandie.fr/en/celebrating-80th-anniversary>

<https://www.planetware.com/france/top-normandy-d-day-beaches-and-memorials-f-1-11.htm>

WHAT DOES THE 'D' IN 'D-DAY' STAND FOR?

<https://time.com/5599811/d-day-meaning/>

Time Magazine in this article, gives⁺ probably the best answer.

D for Day, H for Hour means the undetermined (or secret) day and hour for the start of a military operation.

CODE NAME OPERATION OVERLORD

The beaches were given the code names UTAH, OMAHA, GOLD, JUNO, and SWORD

7000 Ships and Landing Craft crewed by 195,000 Naval Personnel from 8 Allied Countries

Almost 133,000 troops from the United States, the British Commonwealth, and their allies, landed on D-Day

Casualties from these countries during the landing numbered 10,300.

By June 30, over 850,000 men, 148,000 vehicles, and 570,000 tons of supplies had landed on the Normandy shores.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER
Presidential Library, Museum & Boyhood Home

<https://www.eisenhowerlibrary.gov/research/online-documents/world-war-ii-d-day-invasion-normandy>

~~SECRET~~
(EQUALS BRITISH MOST SECRET)
HEADQUARTERS
SUPREME ALLIED COMMAND

COPY

COPY NO. _____

OUTGOING MESSAGE

Date: JAN 232300 A TOO

Originator: COS

From: SHARP

To : AGWAR (N-33)

Info: British Chiefs of Staff London (N-37)

U R G E N T

U.S. SECRET - BIGOT

"Edited Literal Text"

DECLASSIFIED

To : AGWAR and TROOPERS

For : Combined Chiefs of Staff rptd British Authority

From : SC, AEP

Signed: Eisenhower

Date 7/5/72

By DJH NARS Date 11/8/73

1. I have now had an opportunity of discussing the 'OVERLORD' plan with my Commanders-in-Chief. We are convinced that in all discussions full weight must be given to the fact that this operation marks the crisis of the European war. Every obstacle must be overcome, every inconvenience suffered and every risk run to ensure that our blow is decisive. We cannot afford to fail.

2. In this light we have reviewed the 'OVERLORD' plan and we are fully convinced that it is, as the Chiefs of Staff have already asserted, on a narrow margin. The present plan is limited to a three divisional assault. To ensure success we consider it essential to increase the assault force to five divisions. Nothing less will give us an adequate margin to ensure success.

3. Our reasons for this view are that an operation of this type must be designed to obtain an adequate bridgehead quickly and to retain the initiative. Three divisions are insufficient for this. The present frontage of assault is consequently too narrow. It will be essential to extend the front to give us a greater opportunity of finding a weak spot through which to exploit success. Moreover, the chances of success of the operation will be greatly increased and the capture of a port speeded up if we could extend our assault to the EASTERN beaches of the COTENTIN PENINSULA WEST of the barrier formed by the RIVER VIRE and its marshy estuary. Further, the securing of the EASTERN flank, and the early capture of the important focal point of CAEN with the vital airfields in its vicinity will be facilitated by the extension of the assault to the beaches just WEST of OUISTREHAM.

4. With five divisions we should carry out our assault as follows. We should land one US and two BRITISH assault divisions on the CAEN beaches each on a two brigade front as already planned. We should land one additional BRITISH division with one brigade up on the beach just WEST of OUISTREHAM and a US division with one brigade up at the SOUTHERN end of the EAST COTENTIN beaches. The whole assault would thus be made by five divisions with eight brigades up. These would be followed on the second tide of D day by the equivalent of two divisions in landing ships and craft

~~SECRET~~
(MOST SECRET)

"BIGOT"

BIGOT – It's not what you think!

BIGOT was a World War II security classification at the highest level of security - above Top Secret.

BIGOT stood for the **British Invasion of German Occupied Territory** and was chosen by Churchill before America came into the War and it remained the security classification even when Eisenhower took over the planning role.

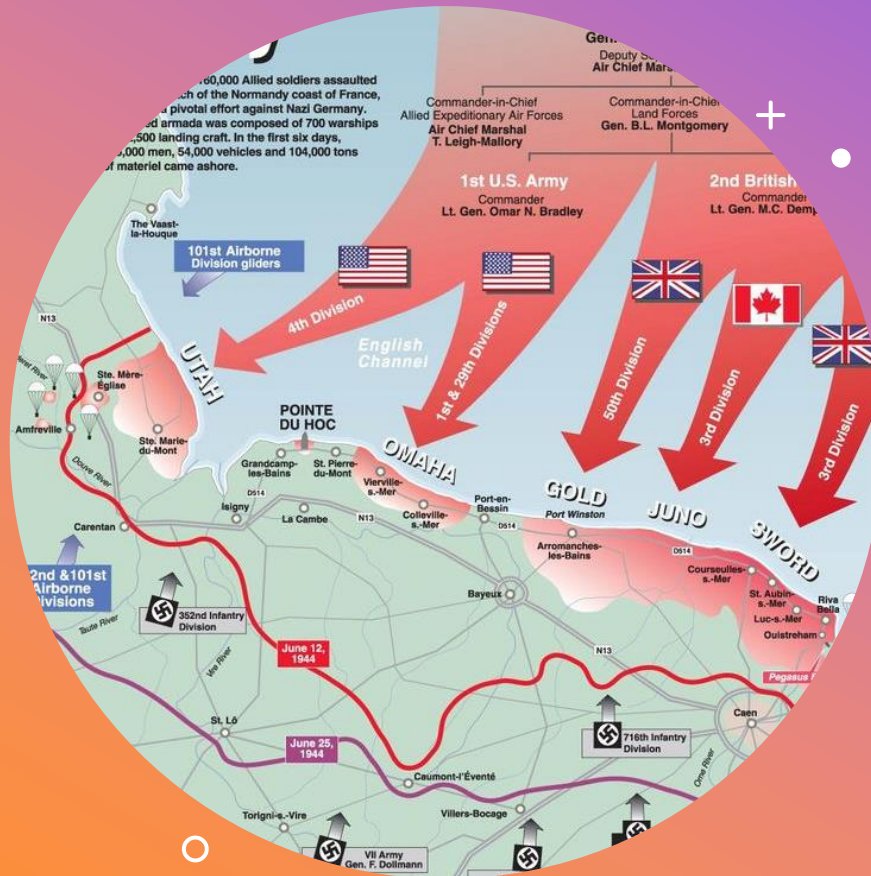
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/ahistoryoftheworld/objects/dc7Vms21Qz6Q4xiqqS37xQ#>

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

Presidential Library, Museum & Boyhood Home

<https://www.eisenhowerlibrary.gov/sites/default/files/research/online-documents/d-day/overlord-part-1.pdf>

Why Normandy? The Germans were convinced the invasion would be at Pas de Calais, the shortest distance between England and France.



THE REASONING BEHIND THE 5 BEACHES

Failure was not an option and to guarantee the success of the operation.



The increase to Five Divisions from Three was to keep the enemy from cutting off the beachhead and encircling the assault. It was thought just three Divisions was too narrow an operation.

It would require considerable planning and logistics to be successful.

REASONS

1. Air Cover and Range:

1. Normandy's beaches were selected because they lay within **range of air cover**.
2. The proximity to England allowed for effective air support during the invasion.

2. Defensive Considerations:

1. Normandy was **less heavily defended** by the Germans compared to other potential targets.
2. The obvious objective was the **Pas de Calais**, which represented the shortest distance between Great Britain and the Continent.
3. However, the Allies deliberately chose Normandy to exploit its relative vulnerability

3. Strategic Importance:

- Allied leaders, including Franklin D. Roosevelt and Winston Churchill, recognized that a massive invasion of mainland Europe was crucial.
- This invasion would relieve pressure from the Soviet army fighting the Nazis in the east.
- Operation Overlord (the codename for the D-Day invasion) aimed to gain a foothold in Nazi-occupied France and ultimately dismantle Adolf Hitler's regime

CHALLENGES

1. Rough Seas and Unpredictable Weather:

1. The **English Channel** posed a formidable barrier. Its **rough seas** and **unpredictable weather** conditions made the crossing treacherous for the invading troops and their equipment¹.

2. The Atlantic Wall:

1. The enemy (Nazi Germany) had spent months constructing the **Atlantic Wall**, a **2,400-mile line of obstacles** along the French coast.
2. This extensive fortification included bunkers, landmines, and beach and water obstacles, making the landing even more challenging for the Allies¹

1. <https://www.nationalww2museum.org/war/articles/day-allies-invade-europe>

CHALLENGES

3. Invisible Enemy and Vulnerability:

1. The infantry faced the hardest tasks. They advanced against an almost invisible enemy—German defenders entrenched in well-fortified positions.
2. Allied soldiers were acutely vulnerable to machine guns, mortar fire, and sniper bullets.
3. They carried pickaxes on their backs to dig slit trenches, which provided their only protection².

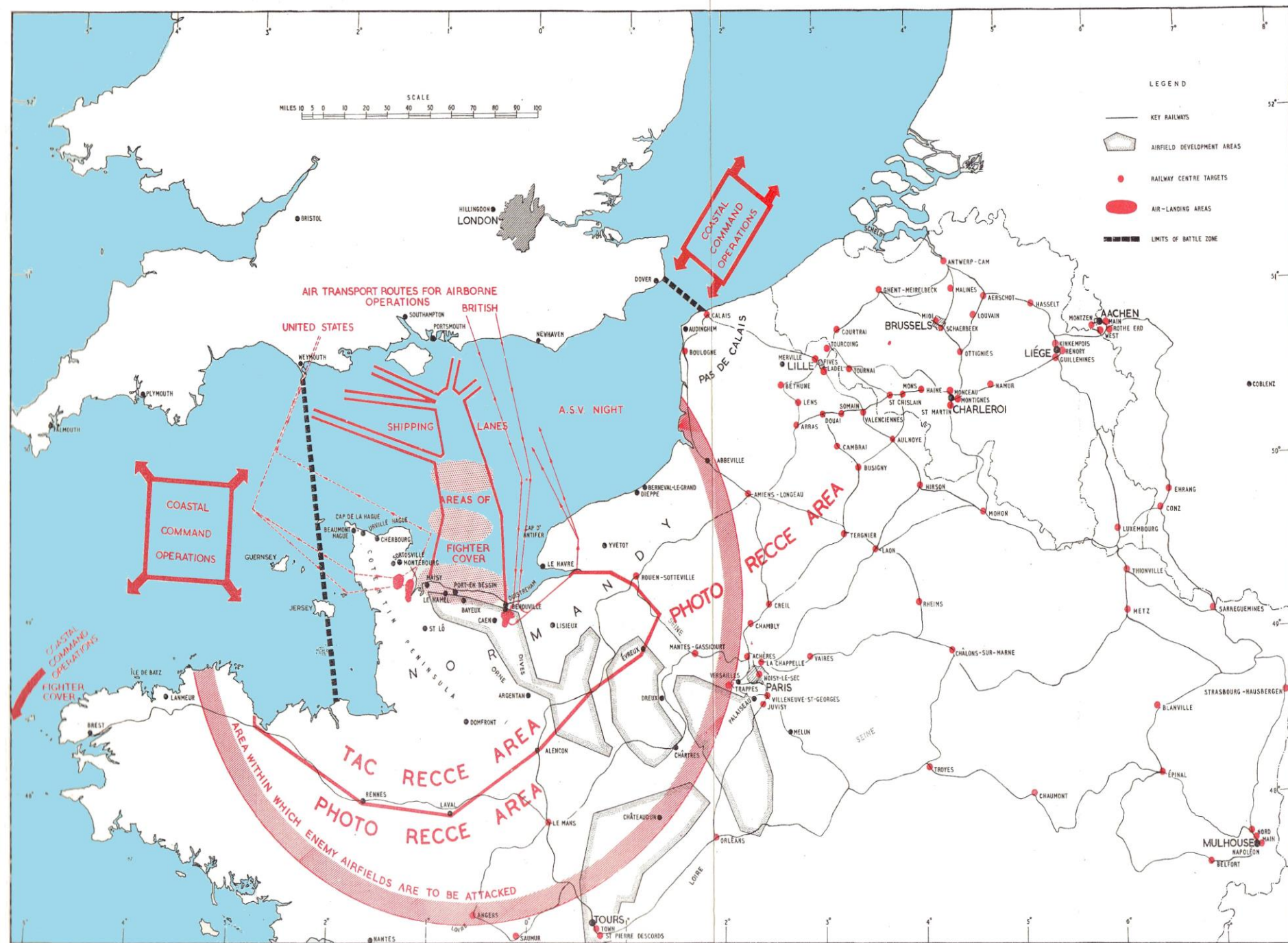
4. Logistics and Supply Challenges:

1. Operation Overlord required massive logistical efforts.
2. The U.S. military had to ship 7 million tons of supplies to the staging area in England, including 450,000 tons of ammunition.
3. Ensuring a continuous flow of troops, vehicles, and equipment was critical for the success of the invasion³.

2. <https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/tactics-and-the-cost-of-victory-in-normandy>

3. <https://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/d-day>

RECON



THE AIR PLAN FOR THE LANDINGS IN NORMANDY, 6 JUNE 1944

DECEPTION – PATTON'S GHOST ARMY



The army General George Patton fielded for the 1944 Normandy D-Day Invasion was unlike any other. It was a complete and unabashed fake.

Operation Quicksilver, would establish an imaginary army group designated the First US Army Group.

The commander of this ghost army had to be a general renowned enough to make the operation seem thoroughly credible to the Germans—a real blood and guts general.

<http://www.americainwwii.com/articles/pattons-ghost-army/>

DECEPTION – PATTON'S GHOST ARMY

Patton had made himself available for the role by becoming a public relations liability during his brilliant campaign to invade Sicily in 1943. He would be relieved of his command and used for public relations in the mediterranean area before being sent to England.

For the deception to work, it had to be airtight.

Scripted Radio Transmissions were sent to indicated the embarking phantom units from the US to England. When the phantom units were to arrive, more radio transmissions were sent to indicated where and when these units were deployed. Plenty of radio traffic would be generated to indicated troop movements and exercises.

The greatest deception: There were mess halls, hospitals, ammo depots, and even sewage treatment farms. Fuel depots were constructed and parks for trucks, tanks, jeeps, and ambulances were laid out. For the most part, the vehicles themselves were constructed of fabric and wood or were rubber inflatables like the **Sherman tank that the farmer's bull gored.**

<http://www.americainwwii.com/articles/pattons-ghost-army/>

DECEPTION – PATTON'S GHOST ARMY



The Abwehr had prying eyes, too: reconnaissance planes that flew at 33,000 feet over the English countryside trying to spot FUSAG units and record their activities and movements. The British and American air forces had to be careful to let the Luftwaffe snoop through to see the mock preparations on the ground, yet not let the flights seem so easy as to raise suspicions.

<http://www.americainwwii.com/articles/pattons-ghost-army/>

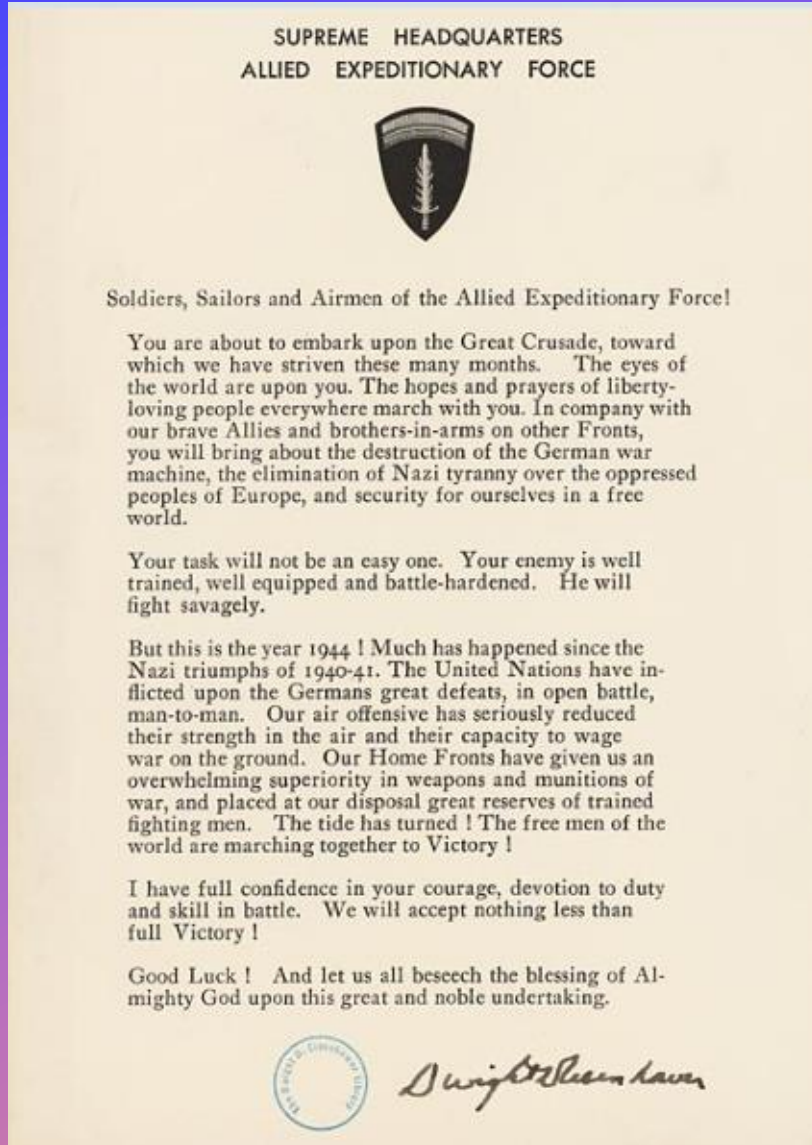
DECEPTION – PATCHES REPRESENTING US ARMY UNITS

The Complete Story can be found
at his website “America in WWII”.
This was only one story of how D-
Day was successful.

<http://www.americainwwii.com/articles/pattons-ghost-army/>.



ORDER OF THE DAY



Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force! You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you.

<https://www.archives.gov/milestone-documents/general-eisenhowers-order-of-the-day>

AIRBORNE TROOPS FLOWN INTO NORMANDY AHEAD OF THE INVASION

In the opening maneuver of the Normandy landings, about 13,100 American paratroopers from the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions, then 3,937 glider infantrymen, were dropped in Normandy via two parachute and six glider missions.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_airborne_landings_in_Normandy

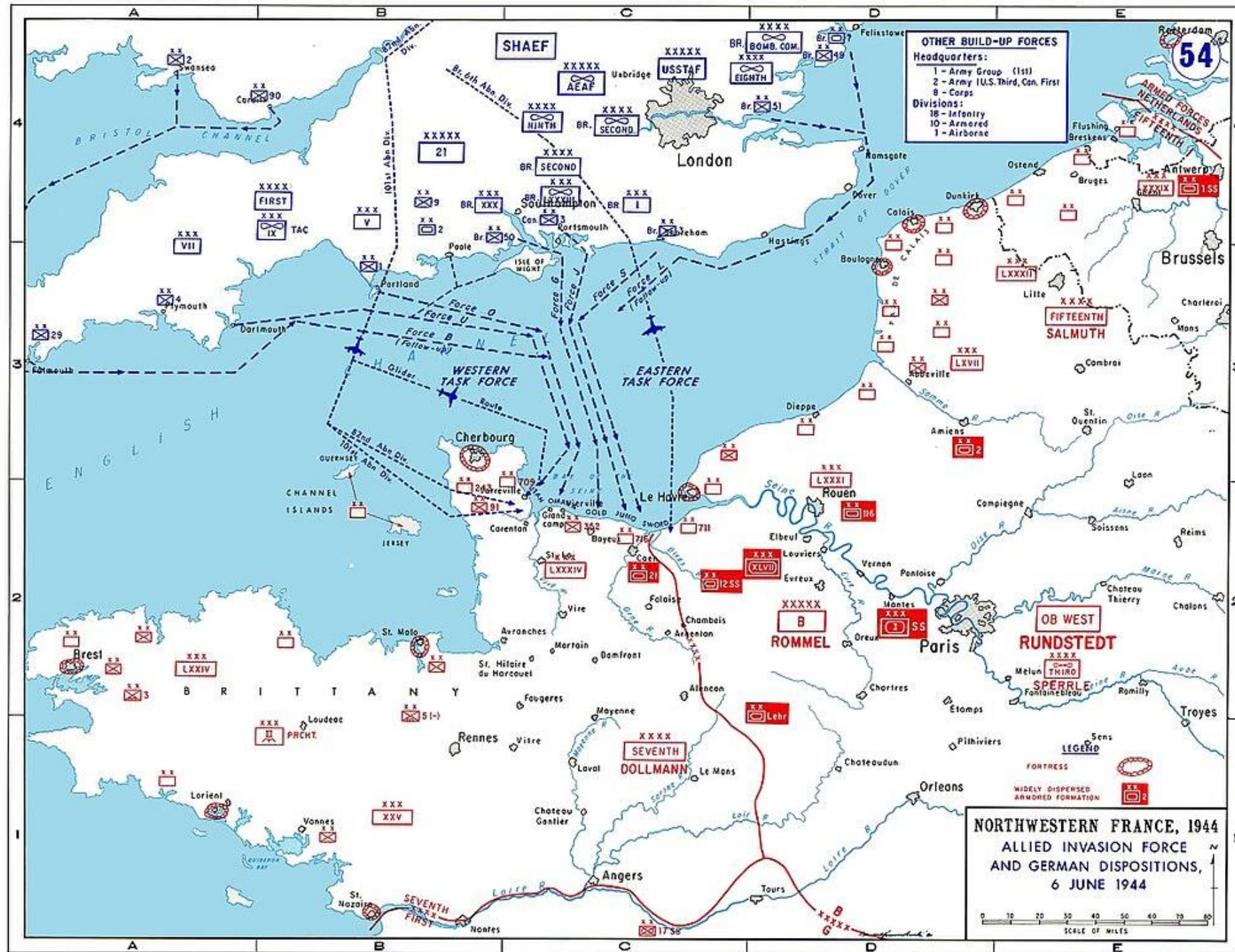
US AIRBORNE'S JOB



https://www.reddit.com/r/ColorizedHistory/comments/bzv9ut/general_dwight_d_eisenhower_addresses_american/?rdt=42927

The two airborne divisions were assigned to block approaches toward the amphibious landings at Utah⁺Beach, to capture causeway exits off the beaches, and to establish crossings over the Douve river at Carentan to help the U.S. V Corps merge the two American beachheads.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_air_borne_landings_in_Normandy



PREPARATIONS

The Planning was extensive. As D-Day approached, a lot had to go right or face failure.

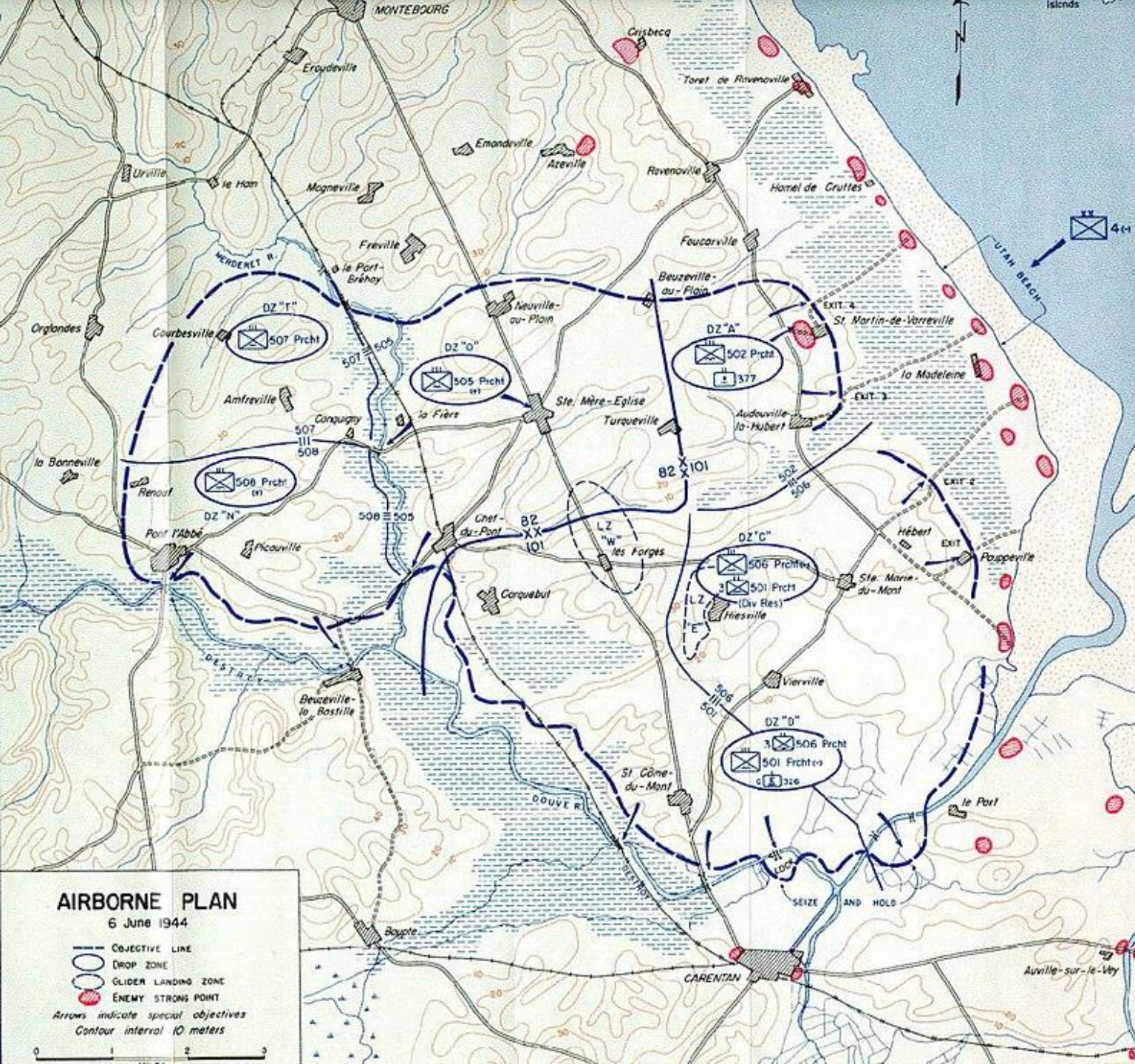
Reports:

Minutes of the SCAEF 21st Meeting, June 2, 1944 [DDE's Pre-Presidential Papers, Box 136, Conferences Supreme Commanders (Jan-June 1944); NAID #12004923]

Conditions in Normandy, June 3, 1944 [DDE's Pre-Presidential Papers, Box 137, Crusade In Europe (Documents) (3); NAID #12005079]

Report of the 8th Air Force, Normandy Invasion, June 2-17, 1944 [Walter Bedell Smith Collection of World War II Documents, Box 48, Eight Air Force Tactical Operations in Support of Allied Landings in Normandy June 2-17 1944 (1); NAID #12005069]

SO IT BEGINS JUNE 6TH, 1944



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American airborne landings in Normandy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_airborne_landings_in_Normandy)

AIRBORNE

The Airborne troops took off June 5th at 22:30

The assault *lift* (one air transport operation) was divided into two missions, "Albany" and "Boston", each with three regiment-sized landings on a drop zone. The drop zones of the 101st were northeast of Carentan and lettered A, C, and D from north to south (Drop Zone B had been that of the 501st PIR before the changes of May 27). Those of the 82nd were west (T and O, from west to east) and southwest (Drop Zone N) of Sainte-Mère-Eglise.



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_airborne_landings_in_Normandy

Scattered drops

Despite precise execution over the channel, numerous factors encountered over the Cotentin Peninsula disrupted the accuracy of the drops, many encountered in rapid succession or simultaneously. These included:^{[3][4][5]}

- C-47 configuration, including severe overloading, use of drag-inducing parapacks, and shifting centers of gravity,
- a lack of navigators on 60 percent of aircraft, forcing navigation by pilots when formations broke up,
- radio silence that prevented warnings when adverse weather was encountered,
- a solid cloud bank at penetration altitude (1,500 feet (460 m)), obscuring the entire western half of the 22 miles (35 km) wide peninsula, thinning to broken clouds over the eastern half,
- an opaque ground fog over many drop zones,
- German anti-aircraft fire ("flak"),
- limitations of the **Rebecca/Eureka transponding** radar system used to guide serials to their drop zones,
- emergency usage of Rebecca by numerous lost aircraft, jamming the system,
- unmarked or poorly marked drop zones,
- drop runs by some C-47s that were above or below the designated 700 feet (210 m) drop altitude, or in excess of the 110 miles per hour (180 km/h) drop speed, and
- second or third passes over an area searching for drop zones.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_airborne_landings_in_Normandy

CHAOS WORKED TO THE ALLIED ADVANTAGE

Even though some Airborne units were scattered and missed their drop zones, it did keep the German Army off guard.

It prevented the German Army from counter-attacking because of the uncertainty of what was going on.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_airborne_landings_in_Normandy

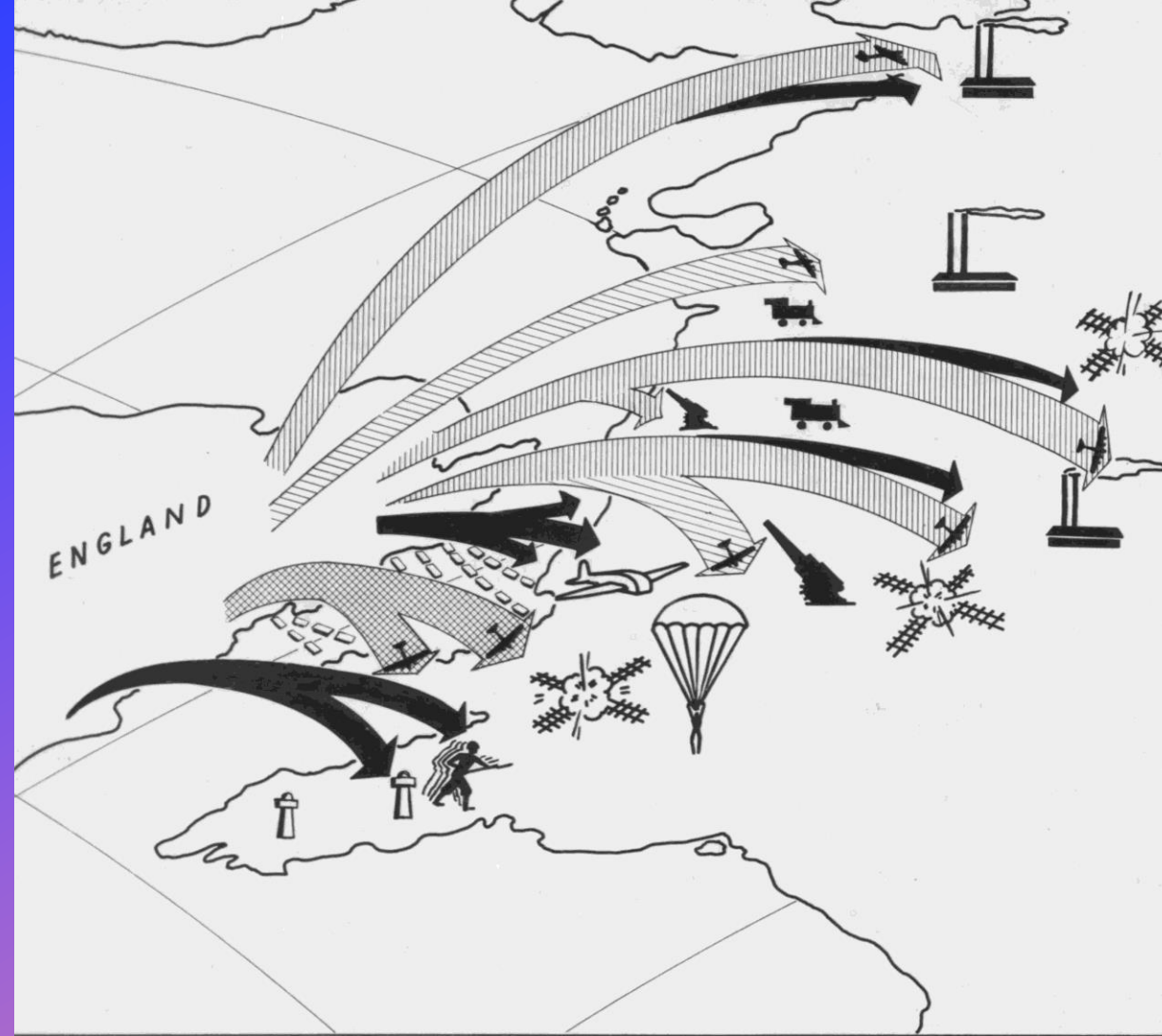
ALLIED AIR FORCES

Allied Air Forces made it possible for D-Day to succeed by:

- breaking the Luftwaffe,
- crippling enemy transportation,
- gathering intelligence,
- and directly supporting Allied ground forces

<https://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/Visit/Museum-Exhibits/Fact-Sheets/Display/Article/1789416/operation-overlord-d-day/>

Allied Air Forces D-Day

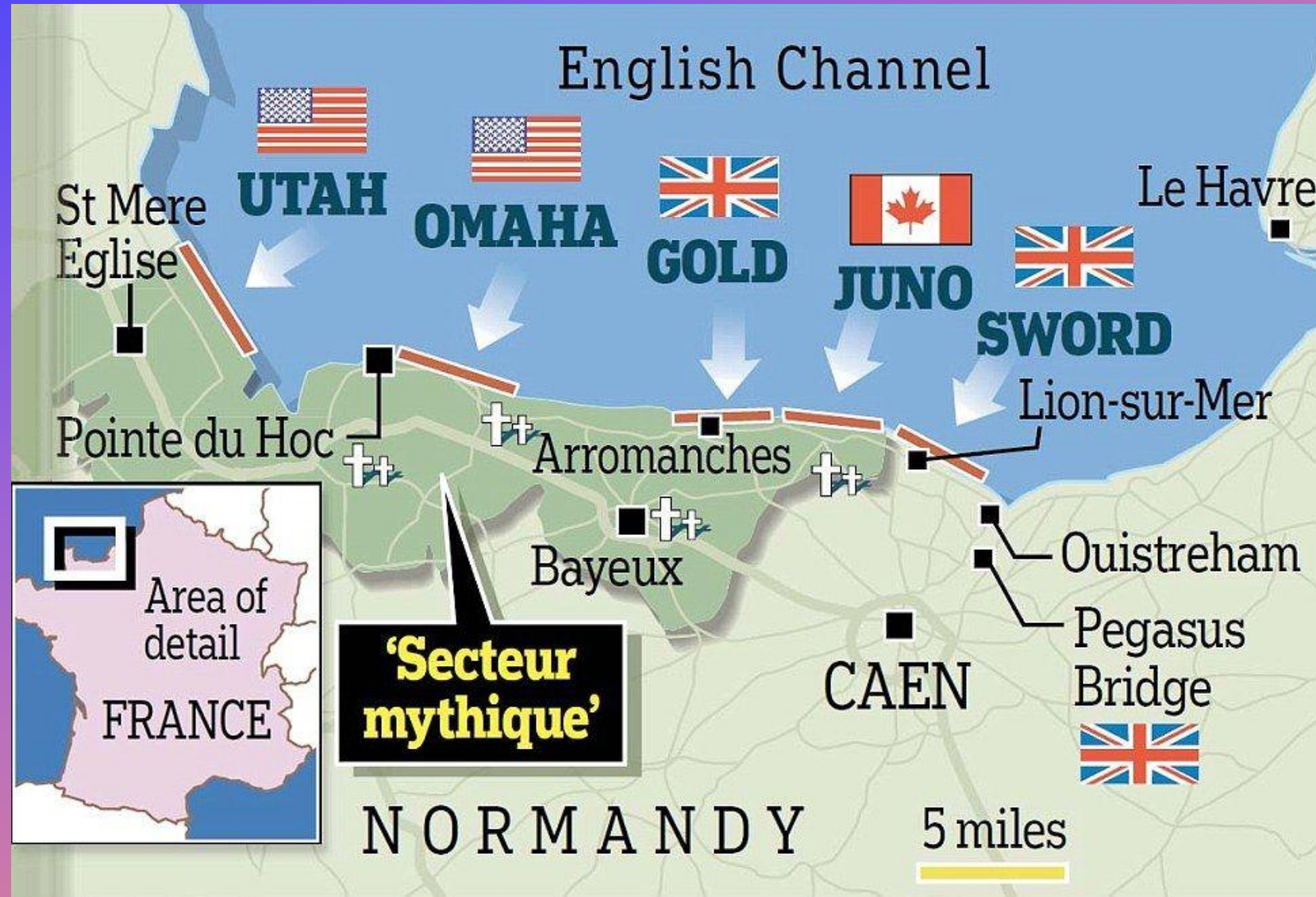


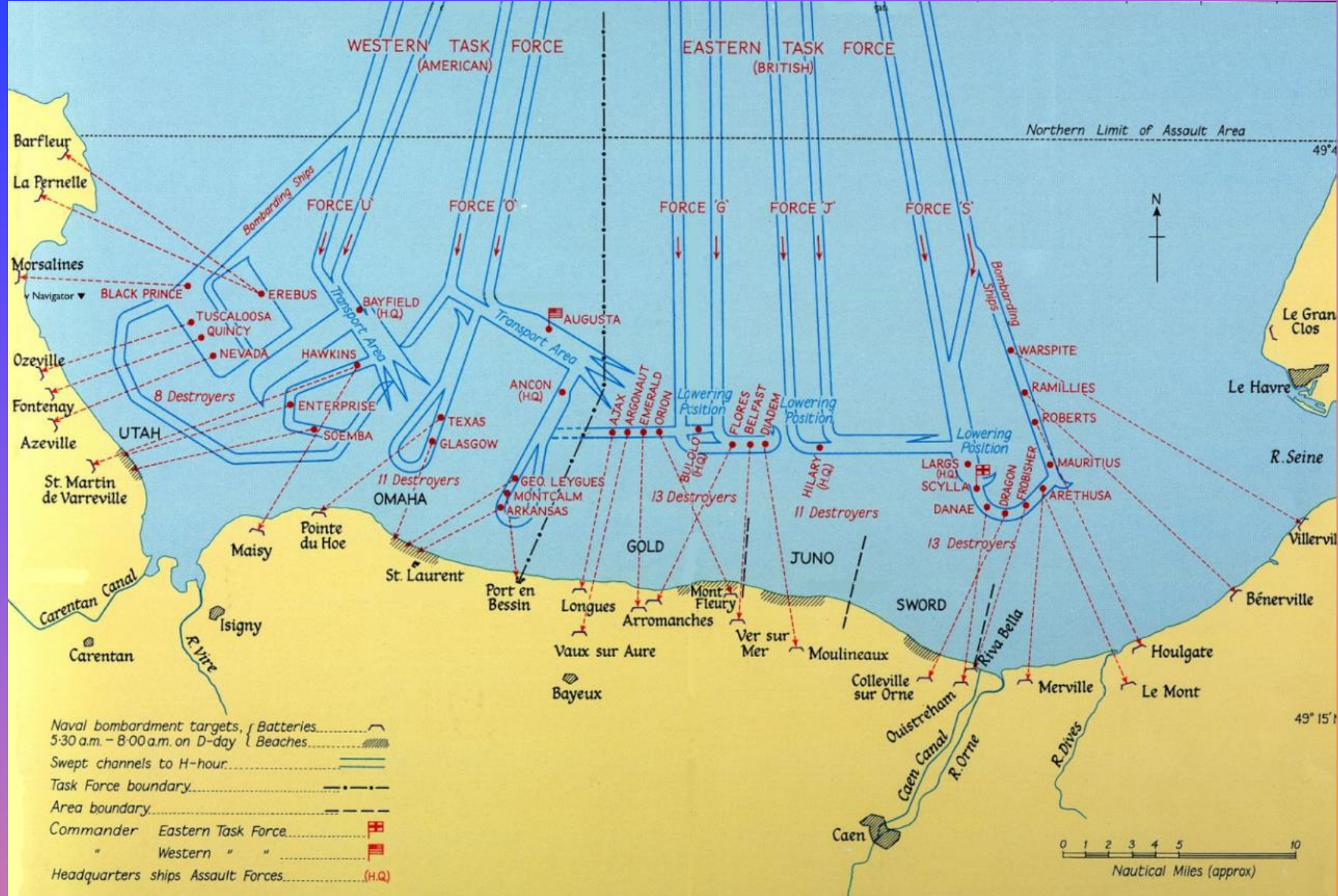
TYPES OF INVASION AIR OPERATIONS



<https://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/Visit/Museum-Exhibits/Fact-Sheets/Display/Article/1789416/operation-overlord-d-day/>

H – HOUR THE BEACHES





SWORD BEACH

The Anglo-Canadian assault landings on D-Day were to be carried out by the British Second Army, under Lieutenant General Miles Dempsey.

The Second Army's I Corps, commanded by Lieutenant General John Crocker, was assigned to take Sword.

Sword stretched about 5 miles (8.0 km) from Saint-Aubin-sur-Mer in the west to the mouth of the River Orne in the east. It was further sub-divided into four landing sectors; from west to east these sectors were 'Oboe' (from Saint-Aubin-sur-Mer to Luc-sur-Mer), 'Peter' (from Luc-sur-Mer to Lion-sur-Mer), 'Queen' (from Lion-sur-Mer to La Brèche d'Hermanville), and finally 'Roger' (from La Brèche d'Hermanville to Ouistreham).

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sword_Beach#Plans

SWORD GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The 3rd Infantry Division was ordered to advance on Caen, 7.5 miles (12.1 km) from Sword,^[29] with the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division advancing on its western flank to secure Carpiquet airfield, 11 miles (18 km) from Juno Beach, on the outskirts of the city.^[27] The 3rd Infantry was also ordered to relieve the elements of the 6th Airborne Division that had secured the bridges over the River Orne and Caen Canal during Operation Tonga, secure the high ground north of Caen, and "if possible Caen itself".^[30] The last point was further reinforced when I Corps' commander, General Crocker, instructed the division, prior to the invasion, that by nightfall the city must be either captured or "effectively masked" with troops based north-west of the city and Bénouville.^[31]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sword_Beach#Plans

SWORD BEACH RESULTS

By the end of D-Day, 28,845 men of I Corps had come ashore across Sword.

Casualties: 683 (that includes killed, ⁺missing, or wounded)

However, the attack on Caen stalled after 3 days due to stiff German resistance. It would not be until the end of June and early July would Caen be captured.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sword_Beach#Plans

JUNO BEACH

Taking Juno was the responsibility of the First Canadian Army, with sea transport, mine sweeping, and a naval bombardment force provided by the Royal Canadian Navy and the British Royal Navy as well as elements from the Free French, Norwegian, and other Allied navies.

+

The objectives of the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division on D-Day were to cut the Caen-Bayeux road, seize the Carpiquet airport west of Caen, and form a link between the two British beaches on either flank.

The beach was defended by two battalions of the German 716th Infantry Division, with elements of the 21st Panzer Division held in reserve near Caen.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Juno_Beach

JUNO BEACH RESULTS

The initial attack on Juno was mixed. Some units achieved their goals easier (especially on the North side) while the South side found obstacles and resistance heavy.

The arial bombing by the RAF and Canadian Air Force proved ineffective because of low clouds and bad weather. Most of the German defenses were not touched. However, the Naval bombardment had better results knocking out most gun emplacements. The German had also not completed their fortifications in time making it easier for the Canadian Army to get ashore. Still mines, under water obstacles presented the Canadians problems.

Casualties: approx. 961 casualties: 340 dead, 574 wounded, and 47 captured.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Juno_Beach

MORE TO THE STORY – JUNO BEACH

The Canadian Encyclopedia

<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/juno-beach>

Britannica: <https://www.britannica.com/place/Juno-Beach>

Warfare History Network:

<https://warfarehistorynetwork.com/article/d-day-assault-on-juno-beach/>

GOLD BEACH

Taking Gold was to be the responsibility of the British Army, with sea transport, mine sweeping, and a naval bombardment force provided by the Royal Navy as well as elements from the Dutch, Polish and other Allied navies.

+
•

The objectives at Gold were to secure a beachhead, move west to capture Arromanches and establish contact with the American forces at Omaha, capture Bayeux and the small port at Port-en-Bessin, and to link up with the Canadian forces at Juno to the east.

Forces attacking Gold faced elements of the German 352nd Infantry Division and German 716th Infantry Division.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gold_Beach

GOLD BEACH RESULTS

Bombing the German defenses from the air and the ensuing naval bombardment, some success was achieved.

Still the resistance was strong because some German gun casements were protected by thick concrete and could only be taken out by direct assault. Plus what tanks that did land either got stuck or struck mines and were disabled.

Still the British Army persevered and with heavy house to house fighting were able to clear out the German defenders. Pockets of German resistance remained throughout the beachhead area and the British were stopped about 3.7 miles (6.0 km) short of their D-Day objectives.

Casualties: Approx 1100 with 350 killed

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gold_Beach#

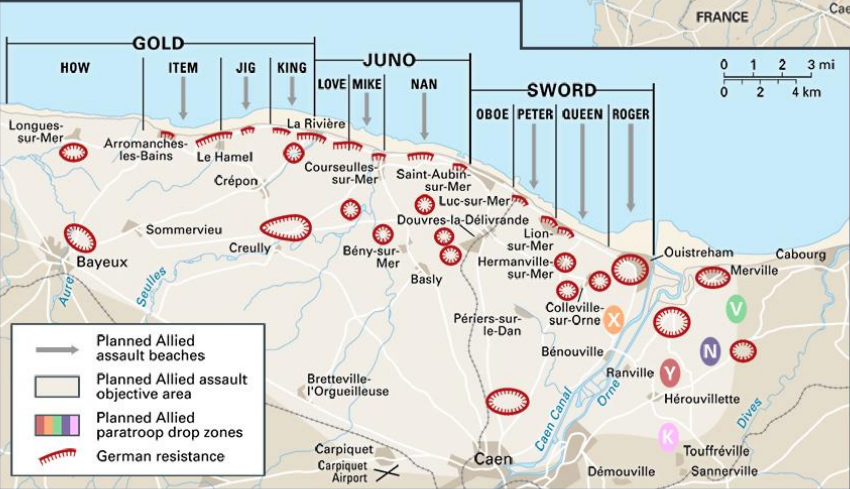
GOLD, JUNO, AND SWORD BEACHES

NORMANDY INVASION — JUNE 6, 1944

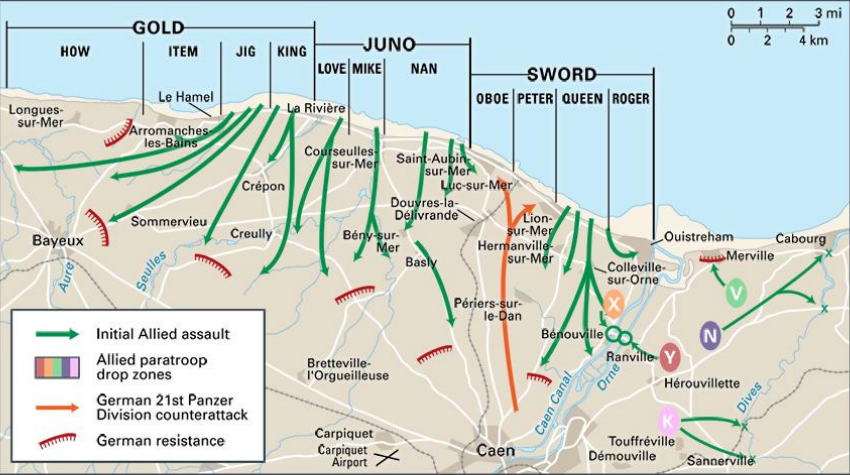
LOCATOR



THE PLAN



INITIAL ASSAULT



FACTS AND FIGURES

GOLD



0725 hours



8 km (5 miles)



British 50th Infantry Div.



716th Div. parts of 352nd Div.



CASUALTIES 400

Troops penetrated 10 km (6 miles) inland.

JUNO



0755 hours



10 km (6 miles)



Canadian 3rd Infantry Div.



716th Div.



CASUALTIES 1,200

30% of landing craft damaged or destroyed

SWORD



0725 hours



8 km (5 miles)



British 3rd Division



716th Div. 21st Panzer Div.

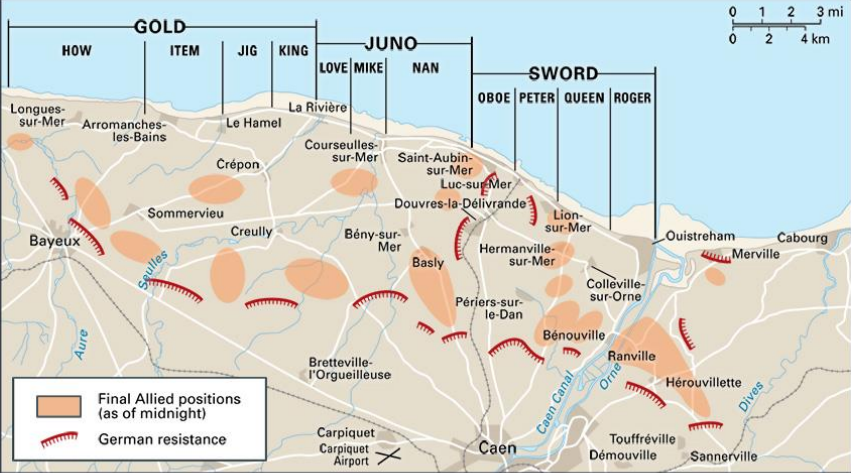


CASUALTIES 630



AIRBORNE TROOPS 6,000 CASUALTIES 1,500

FINAL POSITIONS — MIDNIGHT D-DAY



British 6th Airborne Division

Graphic:
Encyclopedia
Britannica, Inc.

<https://www.britannica.com/study/gold-juno-sword-beaches>

OMAHA BEACH

Probably the most famous and deadliest of the five beaches of the Normandy Invasion.

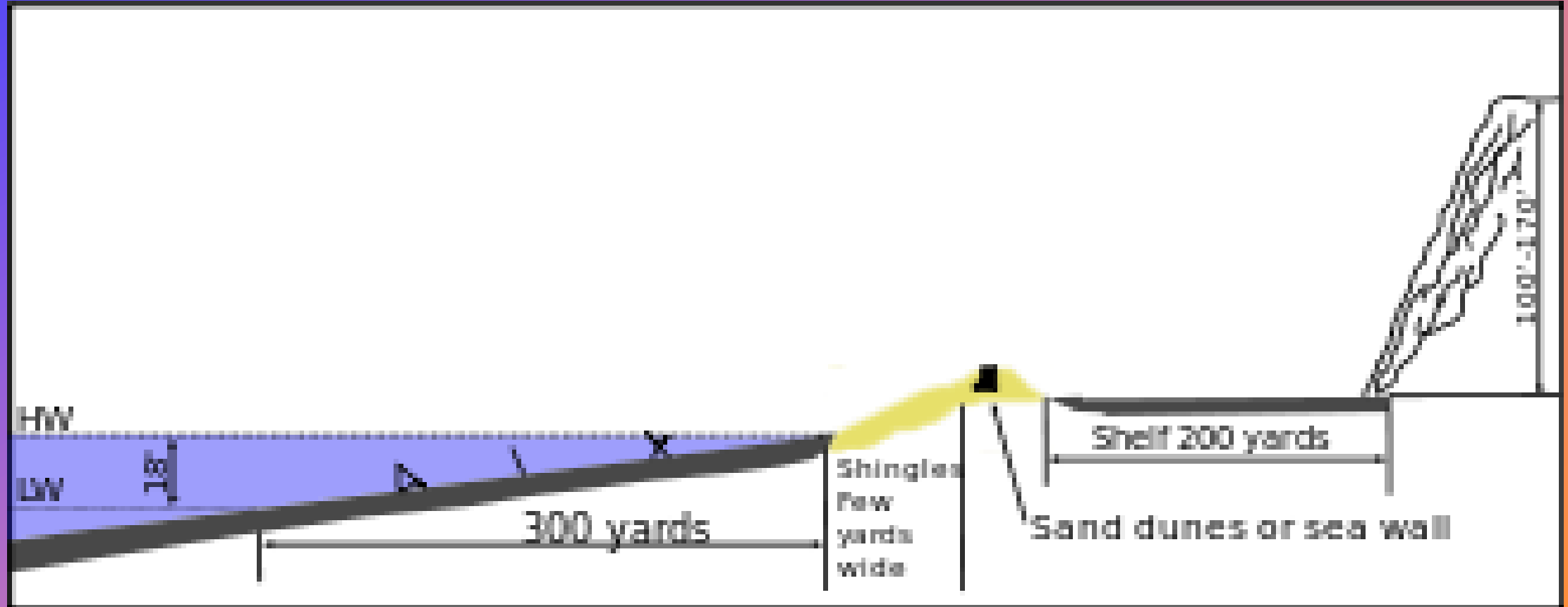
"Omaha" refers to an 8-kilometer (5 mi) section of the coast of Normandy, France, facing the English Channel, from east of Sainte-Honorine-des-Pertes to west of Vierville-sur-Mer on the right bank of the Douve river estuary.

Taking Omaha was to be the responsibility of United States Army troops, with sea transport, and a naval bombardment force provided predominantly by the United States Navy and Coast Guard, with contributions from the British, Canadian and Free French navies.

The primary objective at Omaha was to secure a beachhead 8 kilometers (5 miles) deep, between Port-en-Bessin and the Vire river, linking with the British landings at Gold to the east, and reaching the area of Isigny to link up with VII Corps landing at Utah. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Omaha_Beach

OMAHA - CHALLENGES

Opposing the landings was the German 352nd Infantry Division. Of its 12,020 men, 6,800 were experienced combat troops, detailed to defend a 53-kilometer (33 mi) front.



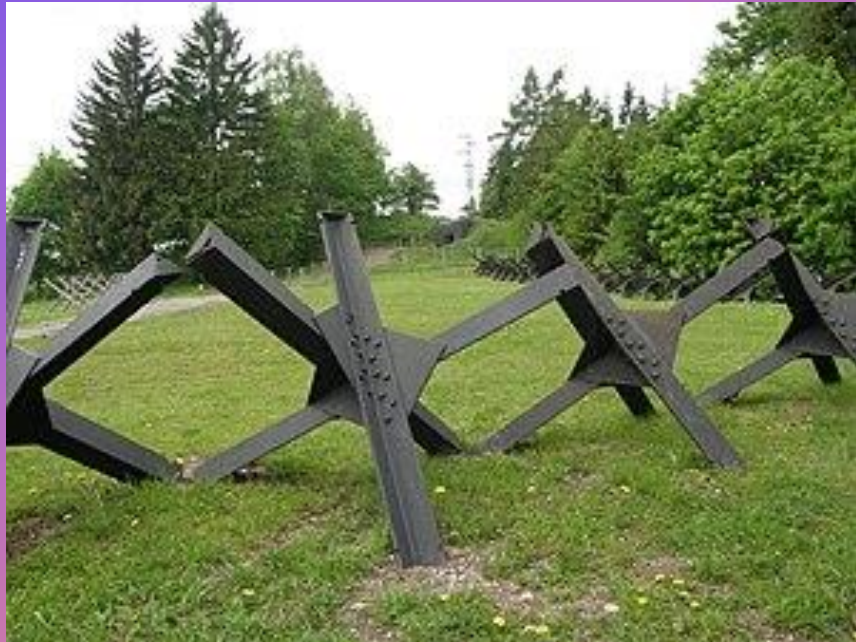
Omaha was bounded at either end by large rocky cliffs.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Omaha_Beach

OMAHA – MORE CHALLENGES

The Germans planned to stop any invasion on the beach. That was Rommel's thinking and concept due to lack of any depth in their fortifications.

The Germans had placed considerable obstacles at the beach with mines, more mines, hedgehogs with mines, And if that wasn't enough, wires and mines lined the bluffs



On top of the bluffs, four companies of infantry with interlocking machine gun nests, pillboxes, artillery including artillery casements and obsolete VK 30.01 (H) tank turrets (from a panzer development program) armed with 75mm L/24 gun were re-used in permanent fortified bunkers.^[9]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Omaha_Beach

OMAHA D-DAY

In a rare intelligence failure, the Allies failed to recognize the inexperienced German troops they thought were manning the defenses had been replaced by the experienced 352nd Infantry Division.

+ •

Nothing was going according to plan. Landing Craft were swamped, seasick troops were waiting offshore, navigation was hampered by smoke and mist obscuring landmarks with a strong current pushing landing craft off course.

Then as landing craft were approaching the beach, they received intensive fire from automatic weapons and artillery.

OMAHA D-DAY

- Difficulties for the infantry reaching the beach resulted in high casualty rates for both the first and second waves.
- Like the infantry, the engineers were also pushed off their targets and lack of supporting fire, had to work in difficult circumstances to clear obstacles so the infantry could move inland.
- Tanks had difficulty getting ashore after leaving the LCT ships. Some were swamped and disabled. Others were destroyed by artillery, but enough did make it shore to support infantry.

OMAHA - BREAKTHROUGH

While the draws had been the designated targets to move inland, strong fortifications and concentrated firepower quickly made land troops incapable of moving forward.

+

The other key aspect of the next few hours was leadership.. With commanders either fallen or absent, small groups from a variety of units pulled together and started the difficult task of clearing the bluffs. It was with their courage, inspiration, or being bullied to get them out of the safety of the shingle (sea wall) to take out the enemy defenses.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Omaha_Beach#Engineer_landings

OMAHA RESULTS

Following penetrations inland, some units only got 1.6 miles inland. Pockets of German resistance still existed behind the front lines. The beachhead was still receiving artillery fire.

At the end of the day, only 100 of the 2400 tons of supplies made it to the beach.

An accurate figure for casualties incurred by V Corps at Omaha on 6 June is not known; sources vary between 5,000 and over 6,000 killed, wounded, and missing,^{[102][103]} with the heaviest losses incurred by the infantry, tanks and engineers in the first landings.^[100]

The foothold gained on D-Day at Omaha, itself two isolated pockets, was the most tenuous across all the D-Day beaches.

OMAHA - AFTERMATH

- Once the beachhead had been secured, Omaha became the location of one of the two Mulberry harbors, prefabricated artificial harbors towed in pieces across the English Channel and assembled just off shore.
- Construction of 'Mulberry A' at Omaha began the day after D-Day with the scuttling of ships to form a breakwater. By D+10 the harbor became operational when the first pier was completed; *LST 342* docking and unloading 78 vehicles in 38 minutes.
 -
- Three days later the worst storm to hit Normandy in 40 years began to blow, raging for three days and not abating until the night of June 22. The harbor was so badly damaged that the decision was taken not to repair it; supplies being subsequently landed directly on the beach until fixed port facilities were captured.^[113]
- In the few days that the harbor was operational, 11,000 troops, 2,000 vehicles and 9,000 tons of equipment and supplies were brought ashore.^[114] Over the 100 days following D-Day more than 1,000,000 tons of supplies, 100,000 vehicles and 600,000 men were landed, and 93,000 casualties were evacuated, via Omaha.^[115]

UTAH BEACH

The westernmost of the five code-named landing beaches in Normandy, Utah is on the Cotentin Peninsula, west of the mouths of the Douve and Vire rivers.

Amphibious landings at Utah were undertaken by United States Army troops, with sea transport, mine sweeping, and a naval bombardment force provided by the United States Navy and Coast Guard as well as elements from the British, Dutch and other Allied navies.

The objective at Utah was to secure a beachhead on the Cotentin Peninsula, the location of important port facilities at Cherbourg.

The amphibious assault, primarily by the US 4th Infantry Division and 70th Tank Battalion, was supported by airborne landings of the 82nd and 101st Airborne Division.

The intention was to rapidly seal off the Cotentin Peninsula, prevent the Germans from reinforcing Cherbourg, and capture the port as quickly as possible.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Utah_Beach

UTAH BEACH

Allied forces attacking Utah faced two battalions of the 919th Grenadier Regiment, part of the 709th Static Infantry Division. The 709th was a combination of volunteers, conscripts, and Soviet POWs who chose to fight for Germany rather than face the consequences back in their home country. A lot of these men were from the Eastern occupied countries. Typically, they were commanded by German officers and NCOs.

- The US 4th Infantry Division landed 21,000 troops on ⁺Utah at the cost of only 197 casualties.
- Airborne troops arriving by parachute and glider numbered an additional 14,000 men, with 2,500 casualties. Around 700 men were lost in engineering units, 70th Tank Battalion, and seaborne vessels sunk by the enemy.
- The main objective was to cutoff the German army from Cherbourg, an important port facility and to prevent reinforcement. However, by the time Cherbourg was captured, the Germans had destroyed the port, and it wasn't until September, the Allies were able to reopen it.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Utah_Beach

AT THE END OF THE DAY

By day's end, approximately 156,000 Allied troops had successfully stormed Normandy's beaches. According to some estimates, more than 4,000 Allied troops lost their lives in the D-Day invasion, with thousands more wounded or missing.

The British and Canadians overcame light opposition to capture beaches codenamed Gold, Juno and Sword, as did the Americans at Utah Beach.

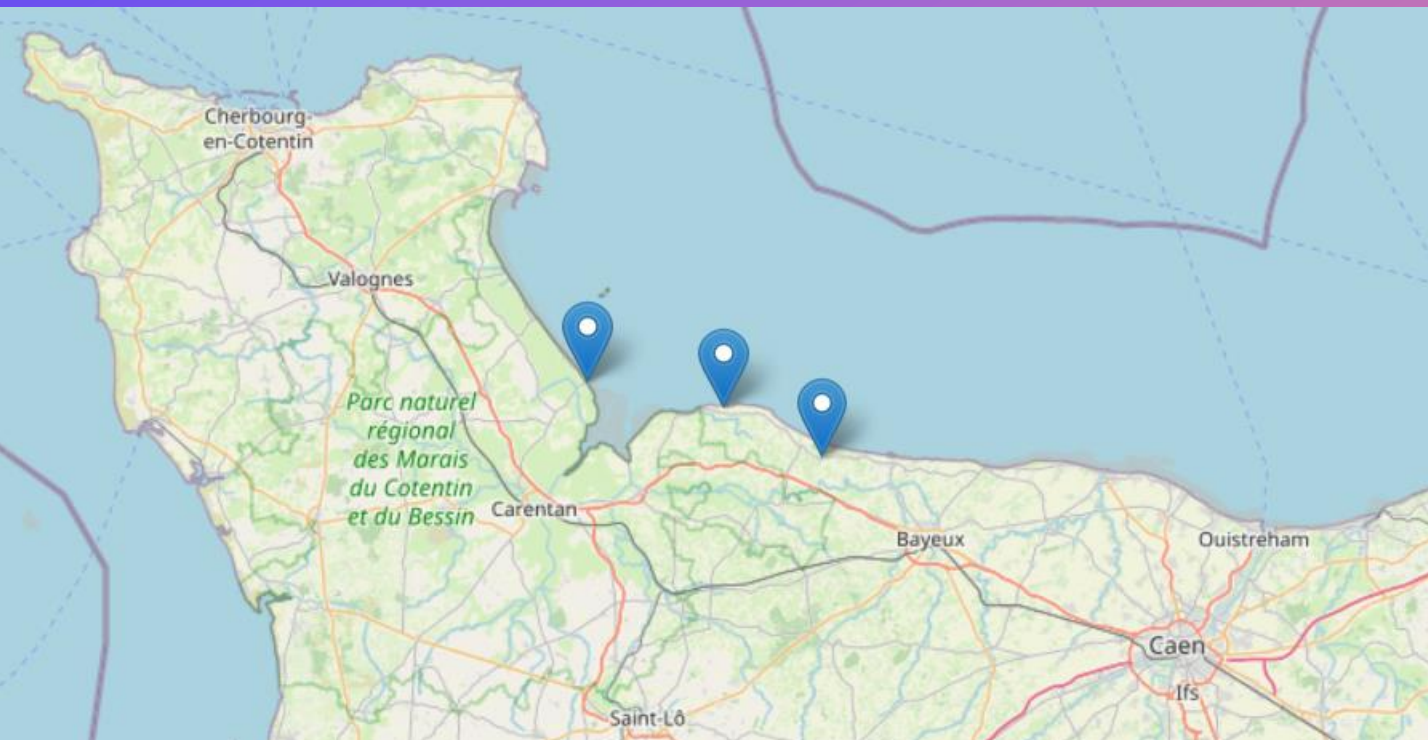
U.S. forces faced heavy resistance at Omaha Beach, where there were over 2,000 American casualties.

Less than a week later, on June 11, the beaches were fully secured and over 326,000 troops, more than 50,000 vehicles and some 100,000 tons of equipment had landed at Normandy.

AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

More than 200,000 Americans who died in WWI or WWII are honored at an ABMC site.

<https://www.abmc.gov/>



Three ABMC Cemeteries exist to honor the Americans for the Normandy Invasion

[Utah Beach American Memorial](#)

[Pointe du Hoc Ranger Memorial](#)

[Normandy American Memorial](#)

COMMONWEALTH WAR MEMORIALS

Commonwealth war graves commission "Caring for the fallen"

<https://www.cwgc.org/>

The British Commonwealth maintains ⁺an extensive list of memorials for their soldiers. Find 23,000 **war memorials and war cemeteries** from around the world with the help of our search database. Search by location, war and number of casualties to research and visit commemorative sites.

You can find a list of their memorials here:

<https://www.cwgc.org/visit-us/find-cemeteries-memorials/>

BOOKS AND OTHER REFERENCES

Stephen Ambrose: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephen_E._Ambrose

D-Day 6th of June: <https://search.worldcat.org/title/29357128>

[Cornelius Ryan, Jouko Linturi](#) : The Longest Day

Five Books (D-Day) <https://fivebooks.com/books/d-day/>

Goodreads: https://www.goodreads.com/list/show/29955.Best_D_day_books

NY Times Book list: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/06/books/d-day-books.html>

The National WW2 Museum:

<https://www.nationalww2museum.org/war/articles/books-dday>

Dwight D Eisenhower Presidential Library:

<https://www.eisenhowerlibrary.gov/research/online-documents/world-war-ii-d-day-invasion-normandy>